

Speaker Biography  
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The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education

## Pamala M. Silas

Pam Silas is currently the Executive Director of American Indian Science & Engineering Society, a national, nonprofit organization which bridges science and technology with traditional Native values. Through its educational programs, AISES provides opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives to pursue studies in science, engineering, and technology arenas. The trained professionals then become technologically informed leaders within the Indian community.

An enrolled member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, and descent of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Silas is a graduate of DePaul University with a Bachelor of Science in Economics. She has over 16 years experience working with a wide variety of community driven initiatives in the non-profit sector serving numerous racial and ethnic populations.

Prior to working for AISES, Silas was Executive Director for Metropolitan Tenants Organization in Chicago, organizing tenants and community groups to improve housing conditions in Chicago's most impoverished neighborhoods. She worked during the 1990's as Associate Director for American Indian Economic Development Association, a community development corporation, with programs that addressed small business, community arts, housing, and discrimination. She also spent 8 years in the corporate sector, working as Regional Administrative Specialist for Four-Phase Systems, Inc.

Silas has provided leadership on many community initiatives including groups such as; Streetwise Newspaper a bi-monthly newspaper that provides employment for hundreds of individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness, Working Mother Media, Best Companies for Women of Color Initiative, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Native American Foster Parents Association and the Menominee Community Center of Chicago.

Pam Silas has been appointed to several public and tribal committees and taskforces, including; Chicago's Community Development Advisory Council, The Chicago Council on Women, Chicago's Low Income Housing Trust Fund Board and the Menominee Tribal Gaming Commission.